1921

Around
Bread Loaf Inn
On Foot
and
By Car

Around Bread Loaf Inn

Bread Loaf Inn, an old and famous hostelry which has reckoned among its guests year after year many men and women well known in the fields of scholarship and literature, is now the property of Middlebury College by bequest of the late Mr. Joseph Battell, and it is here that the Middlebury Summer School of English is located.

The Inn is remarkably situated. It stands with its cottages on the old stage road from Middlebury to Hancock, in the township of Ripton and three miles beyond the picturesque hamlet known as Ripton Hollow. It is twelve miles from Middlebury and in the very midst of the Green Mountains, inside the first range, near the Battell forest, and within three miles of the crest of the second range, along which runs the famous Long Trail which has been opened by the Green Mountain Club. The whole region is unusually interesting; the scenery is picturesque and full of variety; the forest, extending in many directions, protected by Mr. Battell from the axe which has brought devastation to so much New Eng-

land woodland, is a constant surprise and joy to all who visit it; wild flowers and ferns grow in unrivaled profusion.

SHORT WALKS

In the immediate vicinity of the Inn are short walks which may be extended at will. We outline a few of them:

To the school house, by the public road toward the east, with excellent views of the second range, particularly of Bread Loaf Mountain on the left some seven miles away. A few minutes.

The walk may be continued farther along the road and up through the woods to where the road skirts the clearing.

Or turning to the left near the school house, on a grassgrown road, come back behind the Inn; cross to the Inn through the small pasture and past the barns, or continue on beyond the Inn, until the grassy road joins the highway, and so to the Inn.

If we turn to the right at the school house, instead of to the left, then several inviting possibilities are open to us: to follow the road (not much traveled but excellent walking) on across the brook (a branch of Middlebury River), on over a rise of ground down across the roaring Goshen Brook and up on the farm land where the road runs out—a place with great views of the valley; or, turning off to the right from this road at top of the first rise, to go on to Clark's Clearing; or at Goshen Brook, turning off on the logging road, to follow up the course of that stream.

Or, starting again from the Inn, a few rods east on the main road, turn down by the path past the vegetable gardens to the rustic bridge over the stream. Take the path to the left through the spruces along up the roaring stream to the branch road near the school house; or take the path to the right (at the rustic bridge mentioned above) down stream until you come out again on the main road a little west of the Inn.

SOMEWHAT LONGER WALKS

To Pulpit Rock: Main road to the east; take the second road to the right, *i. e.*, the first road beyond the school house. Cross the brook. In front of deserted house, turn to the left across field. The trail is marked at entrance of woods and easy to follow. At length, trail arrow points to Pulpit Rock. It is possible to return by going down through woods and across the brook to the highway, but this is harder than to return as you came. The round trip is some two and a half to three miles.

To the Widow's Clearing: Past the vegetable gardens and across the brook. From that point by easy trail (which needs to have the brush cleaned out in spots). From the highest point in the clearing there is a beautiful view of the Inn, with its cottages and barns, and of the whole valley and the surrounding mountains. Return as you came, or by coming out on the school house road. Perhaps a mile and a half all together.

Those who wish to continue on farther will find at the back of Widow's Clearing arrows pointing out the trail to Clark's Clearing. The trail, which is plainly blazed, but not all cleared out, is not hard walking. It leads through beautiful forests, and somewhat more than halfway through, at the left, is an excellent spring. The trail frequently follows the deer-runs. Clark's Clearing is now growing up, but the cellar hole of the old house is there and the currant bushes. Return by grassy road through woods and pastures to school house road and then to main road, or else, as you came. About four miles, the whole trip—and a four miles abounding in variety.

To Pleiad Lake: By the highway east to the crest of the pass, three miles. Turn to the right (south) and follow the Long Trail (white blazes) one-fourth mile to the Green Mountain Club lodge, then one-fourth mile farther to Lake Pleiad—a beautiful little lake situated almost on the top of the second range. The lake is reached also by a wood-road, turning off from the main road just before you reach the top of the pass. Many like to go to the lake from the highway by one of these routes and return by the other. Beyond Lake Pleiad one may continue on the Long Trail one-half mile and come out to the Lake Pleiad Lookout. To Lake Pleiad and return is an afternoon's walk without hurrying.

A woods trail to Lake Pleiad from Pulpit Rock, opened many years ago, is in-

teresting, but is grown up and difficult, and needs to be marked and cleaned out again.

To Burnt Hill Lookout: The easier and better of the two ways of reaching Burnt Hill is to go past the barn, through the small pasture, and then through the large pastures to the northeast. Enter the woods where the trail's beginning is marked by an opening and by a wooden reel for wire on a tree. Then climb the beautiful and easy ascent until you reach the Long Trail. Turn to the right (south) on the Long Trail. After a short distance a sign shows a path to the ledges of Burnt Hill Lookout a few rods off. View of the valley and mountains, over the new spruces which are growing up. Returning to the Long Trail, continue south until you reach the highway at the crest of the pass, and so back to the Inn. A walk of six or seven miles—a good afternoon's walk. It is, of course, also feasible to return the same way you go to Burnt Hill and is somewhat nearer.

To Silent Cliff: By the highway east to the crest of the pass. Turn to the left (north) on the Long Trail. After one-half mile or so, sign marks Silent Cliff trail to the right. The trail is easy and is clearly marked all the way. You come out on the brink of the cliff. A great view of virgin spruce and hardwood forests, with the main highway in the gulf below you and a glimpse of the Inn with its cottages and barns down the valley at your right. Return as you

came—a walk altogether of six or seven miles, or continue on the Long Trail north (steep at first) past Burnt Hill Lookout and to the Inn that way, which is considerably farther.

HIKES AND WEEK-END TRIPS

For the longer hikes a hiking outfit is needed. One intending to go on overnight trips should bring a suitable blanket; also a knapsack, if he has anything of the sort. However, a few knapsacks do for a party. The parties are usually limited to ten persons on account of the limited accommodations at the lodges. Suitable clothing is to be considered for all woods travel, but this is more needful for the long trips. It is an urgent matter that ladies especially should be dressed comfortably for hiking. Mrs. Vernon C. Harrington, Middlebury, Vt., will gladly counsel regarding suitable clothing for women who care to write her. The food is provided by the Inn.

To Bread Loaf Mountain and Emily Proctor Lodge: Through the pastures and by the side trail as to Burnt Hill. At the Long Trail turn to the left (north). Most of the day through spruce forest, for a time along the crest of the range, then along the side of Bread Loaf Mountain. Lunch by one of the streams. At last the trail shoots up steeply to the north end of Bread Loaf, its highest point, 3,823 feet. There are several lookouts in different directions. All should be visited. A great view of mountains

on every side—those over which you have come and those farther away, especially to the west and north—to Lake Champlain and the Adirondacks. Then the trail drops down into the steep glen at the north end of the mountain, and crosses the headwaters of the New Haven River, to where Emily Proctor Lodge stands on a shelf above the foaming stream. This is one of the most picturesque locations on the trail and this is one of the oldest lodges; it was here before the Long Trail was put through. It has been somewhat improved and makes a very comfortable abiding place for the night. Those who have slept here will not soon forget the glen at twilight and the soothing voice of the stream. Next day, parties usually return to the Inn by another way, either down the stream to South Lincoln (a trail full of springs) and through the woods, or else over the shoulder of Bread Loaf again and back by Homer Noble's trail.

To Silver Lake and Mt. Moosalamoo: By the Widow's Clearing and Clark's Clearing as outlined above, or else by the school house road to Clark's Clearing. In the southwest corner of the clearing a tree trimmed up and heavily blazed marks the entrance to a road which Mr. Battell caused to be opened. It is now somewhat grown up, but not difficult to follow. Continue till it comes out of the woods, crosses Sucker Brook, and comes down on the little-traveled Goshen road. Turn to the south on this. After about a mile, turn to the right by farm

road and then by path to Silver Lake. This beautiful lake has been somewhat injured by its level's being raised fifteen feet and its being used as reservoir for the Hortonia Company's power station, situated below at Lake Dunmore, but it is still worth going far to see. Chandler's Hotel on Silver Lake, formerly available for visitors, is now closed, except that the family is usually there. Accommodations can be secured in one of the cottages, through the kindness of Mr. Chandler. Next morning, down the mountain side by good wood-road, across the lower part of Sucker Brook, and up Mt. Moosalamoo by good trail. Do not stop with the summit of the mountain, but follow a path to your left some few hundred feet which goes down and comes out on the precipice, with Lake Dunmore far below at your feet. A wide and varied panorama of Silver Lake, Lake Dunmore, Fern Lake, woods, cultivated country, and the mountains in the distance. Return to the Inn by logging-roads through the woods till Goshen road is reached, then by following that north until it joins the main road which passes the Inn. The route for the Silver Lake-Mt. Moosalamoo expedition will be more carefully mapped out and marked this coming season.

To the headwaters of Sucker Brook: Another very attractive trip which will be available this summer. The Lake Pleiad section of the G. M. C. plans to put in a new lodge at the headwaters of Sucker Brook during the last week or

ten days of June. This will make possible an excellent week-end trip to the south on the Long Trail from Lake Pleiad over Worth Mountain, staying overnight at the new lodge and returning by wood-roads which connect with the road described above and bring the hikers back through Clark's Clearing.

AUTOMOBILE TRIPS

To Lincoln Mountain: A very feasible trip, involving both the use of a car and a climb on foot, is to Mt. Abraham, 4,040 feet, (which the early settlers named Potato Hill on account of its symmetrical appearance like a hill of potatoes), which is the southernmost peak of Lincoln Mountain. Car to Henry Davis' farm in Lincoln. Good road. Then on foot three miles to the top of the mountain. Half a mile before reaching the summit, Battell Lodge and not far from the lodge a very fine spring. Summit above the tree line—one of the few bare peaks in the Green Mountains. A vast view in every direction. Return to Henry Davis' and take car to the Inn. This trip can be done easily in a day's outing without hurrying.

To Lake Champlain and Lake George: A wonderful automobile trip, rich in variety—mountains, fertile farming country and lakes. A good day's excursion. Parties last summer did the round trip easily in one day far down along Lake George.

Other automobile trips of interest in

every direction. At Middlebury, the road from Bread Loaf connects with the through automobile road from Boston and New York to Montreal. Rutland, Brandon and Burlington are within easy reach, and it is feasible in a day's trip to follow the famous automobile road across the islands north of Burlington and return. The road across the pass east of Bread Loaf Inn can be traversed by a car and some crossed that way last summer. It is, however, steep on the east side and requires a good driver. It is hoped the road on the east side of the mountain will be further improved. Crossing by this road into the White River Valley, great and attractive possibilities are opened. At Hancock, you connect with the through road—a road in splendid condition for automobiles. Turning to the north, through Granville and the great Warren woods to Warren, you may go down the beautiful Mad River Valley to Waitsfield and so to Waterbury, Montpelier and points farther north. Wonderful roads all the way. Turning south at Hancock, you come down the White River to Rochester, Gaysville, Bethel, Royalton and White River Junction. Then north or south along the Connecticut. If one does not wish to drive the road east of Bread Loaf, it is a short and easy matter to drive out of the mountains to East Middlebury, then by excellent road along Lake Dunmore, either side of the lake you choose, and at Forestdale pick up the Brandon-Rochester road, which has

been recently improved on purpose for automobile use and which crosses the mountain by very easy grades and connects with the road in the White River Valley at Rochester.

If a week-end trip of two days by car is contemplated, the opportunities beyond those already mentioned become multiplied. With just two days, several points in the Adirondacks become available, or in the White Mountains, or a trip to Manchester, Vt., widely known as a place of beautiful summer residence, turning off at Rutland to cross the mountain by a splendid road to Woodstock, with its famous inn, and so back to Bread Loaf. Indeed, with two days, the possibilities in every direction become great and fascinating.

HIKE MASTERS AND COUNSELORS

A number of those either on the staff or students in the school will be specially interested in taking parties on walks and week-end tramps. They are Prof. and Mrs. V. C. Harrington, Prof. Everett Skillings, and Mr. Walbridge B. Fullington.

Detailed information as to automobile trips will be furnished either by the office of the English School or by the office of the Inn. Mr. Eugene F. Boyce will be ready, as last summer, to take small parties himself and to advise and organize larger parties, plan routes and secure cars.